<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a data reception unit;

a rule decision processing unit configured to determine whether data processing based on a data processing request received via the data reception unit is to be executed; and

a data processing unit configured to execute data processing based on the determination of the rule decision processing unit, wherein

the rule decision processing unit is configured to execute determination processing for determining whether or not the processing according to the processing request is to be executed based on a rule deciding condition descriptor, and the rule deciding condition descriptor is determined based on a probability value.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said rule deciding condition descriptor is included in a data processing request; and

said rule decision processing unit is configured to generate a random number and to execute determining processing for determining whether or not the processing according to a processing request is to be executed based on a comparison between the generated random number and said rule deciding condition descriptor.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

said rule deciding condition descriptor is included in a data processing request; and

said rule decision processing unit is configured to perform hash value calculation processing based on the data processing request storing data, and to execute determining processing for determining whether or not the processing according to a processing request is to be executed based on a comparison between a calculated hash value and a setting value set in its own apparatus in advance.

Claims 13-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A data processing method for analyzing a data processing request received via a data reception unit, and for determining whether the data processing request is to be executed, comprising:

a rule decision processing step for determining whether data processing based on the data processing request is to be executed; and

a data processing step for executing data processing based on the determination of the rule decision processing step, wherein

the rule decision processing step determines whether or not the processing according to the processing request is to be executed based on a rule deciding condition descriptor, and the rule deciding condition descriptor is determined based on a probability value.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The data processing method according to claim 21, wherein:

said rule deciding condition descriptor is included in the data processing request; and

said rule decision processing step generates a random number and determines whether or not the processing according to the processing request is to be executed based on a comparison between the generated random number and the said rule deciding condition descriptor.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The data processing method according to claim 21, wherein:

said rule deciding condition descriptor is included in the data processing request; and

said rule decision processing step executes hash value calculation processing based on the data processing request storing data, and determines whether or not processing according to the processing request is to be executed based on a comparison between a calculated hash value and a setting value set in its own apparatus in advance.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium including a computer program for analyzing a data processing request received via a data reception unit, and for determining whether the data processing request is to be executed, , wherein, the computer program, when executed by a processor, causes the process to perform a method comprising:

a rule decision processing step for determining whether the data processing based on

the data processing request is to be executed; and

a data processing step for executing the data processing based on the determination of

the rule decision processing step, wherein

the rule decision processing step determines whether or not the processing according

to the processing request is to be executed based on a rule deciding condition descriptor, and

the rule deciding condition descriptor is determined based on a probability value.